

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace, without prejudice, all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-12 (canceled).

13. (Currently Amended) A die system for producing multi-segmented filaments comprising:
a polymer source maintaining a polymer under predetermined rheological conditions;
a die in communication with the polymer source, the die maintaining the polymer under predetermined rheological conditions; and

a die plate in fluid communication with the die, the die plate defining a first group of openings, the first group of openings comprising a first opening and a second opening, the first opening and the second opening configured ~~to form a first elementary fiber having a skin and a second elementary fiber having a skin~~ to form at least two elementary polymer filaments,

the first opening and the second opening further configured such that a bead of the polymer material exiting a die opening in the group contacts with at least one other bead of polymer material exiting another die opening in the group.

14. (Currently Amended) The die system of claim 13 further comprising:
a second polymer source in communication with the die.

15. (Currently Amended) The die system of claim 13 wherein the die plate defines a second group of openings, the second group comprising a third opening and a fourth opening, the third opening and the fourth opening configured ~~to form a third elementary fiber having a skin and a fourth elementary fiber having a skin~~ to form at least two elementary polymer filaments,

the third and fourth openings further configured such that a bead of the polymer material exiting a die opening in the second group contacts with at least one other bead of polymer material exiting another die opening in the second group

16. (Currently Amended) A die plate system for producing multi-segmented filaments comprising:

a die plate having a first opening and a second opening, the distance between the first opening and the second opening being equal to or greater than a quarter of the sum of the diameters of the first opening and the second opening and the distance between the first opening and the second opening being less than or equal to two and a half times the sum of the diameters from the first opening and the second opening,

the die plate in fluid communication with a die containing a polymer under predetermined rheological conditions,

the first opening and the second opening of the die plate further configured such that polymer from the die exiting the first opening forms a first bead and polymer from the die exiting the second opening forms a second bead, wherein the first bead and the second bead are in contact with one another.

17. (Currently Amended) A die plate system for producing multi-segmented filaments comprising:

a die plate having a first opening and a second opening, the distance between the first opening and the second opening is equal to or greater than a quarter of the sum of the diameters of the first opening and the second opening and the distance between the first opening and the second opening is less ~~then~~ than or equal to the sum of the diameters of the first opening and the second opening

the die plate in fluid communication with a die containing a polymer under predetermined rheological conditions,

the first opening and the second opening of the die plate further configured such that polymer from the die exiting the first opening forms a first bead and polymer from the die exiting the second opening forms a second bead, wherein the first bead and the second bead are in contact with one another.

18. (Withdrawn) A multi-segmented filament comprising:

a first elementary fiber having a skin; and

a second elementary fiber having a skin;
wherein the first elementary fiber is connected longitudinally to the second elementary fiber by adhesion of the skin of the first elementary fiber with the skin of the second elementary fiber.

Claims 19-20 (Canceled).